

ISRAEL SAYS IT HARVESTED ORGANS, PG10

Comment pg 14

City did the right thing in transit vote



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Celebrity Buzz

Kevin Jonas ties the knot pg 26



Province reverses policy change

HEALTH The Alberta government is reversing a controversial policy change that would have seen toiletries and snacks taken away from mental health patients at Alberta Hospital.

The policy was part of an implementation plan to standardize supplies across the province and was supposed to save Alberta Health Services \$70,000 a year.

Member of the legislature Fred Horne, who sits on the Health Advisory Committee, says he learned of the plan Saturday morning and immediately called Health Minister Ron Liepert.

Alberta Health Services was asked to cancel the policy by the government.

Horne expressed regret over the planned changes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?



Entertainment pg 23



The albums of the decade

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Snow Valley



Brendan Tran, 5, gets a few free helpful tips from Keith Massey, a ski instructor at Snow Valley, yesterday during the hill's holiday celebration. Story, page 3.

Actress Murphy dead at 32

HOLLYWOOD Brittany Murphy, the actress who got her start in the sleeper hit *Clueless* and rose to stardom in *8 Mile* before her movie roles declined in recent years, died yesterday in Los Angeles of what appeared to be natural causes, a Los Angeles County coroner's official said. She was 32.

Murphy was pronounced dead at 10:04 a.m. at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Sally Stewart said.

Murphy was transported to the hospital after the Los Angeles Fire Department responded to a call at 8 a.m. at the home she shared with her husband, British screenwriter Simon Monjack, in the Hollywood Hills.

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said Murphy apparently collapsed in the bathroom, and authorities were looking into her medical history.

An official cause of death may not be determined for some time, since toxicology tests will be required, but "it appears to be natural," Winter said. He said an autopsy was planned for today or tomorrow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

H1N1 handled OK: Poll

Albertans' satisfaction rebounds since Flames controversy

Flu Outbreak

Canadians think governments at all three levels have done an OK job of handling the H1N1 flu, though many also think the risk was exaggerated, a new poll suggests.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests that as concern is waning among Canadians, they are generally satisfied with how their governments responded to the pandemic.

Nearly three-quarters — or 73 per cent — of those

who took part in the survey assessed Ottawa's performance as good or fair, and the numbers were similar at the provincial and municipal levels. That's up from 61 per cent last month, when there were distribution challenges with the vaccine and lineups at clinics were hours long.

"It struck me that some of the things that were most likely to be causing people a problem at the last time that we asked had been taken care of," said Doug Anderson, senior vice-president of Harris-Decima. Provincially the biggest

Concern

- Just nine per cent said they were very concerned about swine flu, compared with 11 per cent two weeks ago and 22 per cent three weeks before that.

change was 41 per cent of respondents in Alberta saying their government was handling H1N1 poorly, as opposed to 61 per cent one month ago.

At that time the controversy had just erupted over Calgary Flames players and their families getting the

vaccine when others were finding it more difficult to get. That issue and the others have since been resolved, Anderson said.

Now, many clinics have closed, and the rate of new infections seems to be dropping, based on hospitalizations, with declines being reported in all provinces and territories.

The survey also found that most of those polled have either already received the vaccine or decided they won't be getting it, leaving just 12 per cent who said they still intend to get vaccinated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Local



Gold medallist at Rexall Place

The Edmonton Oilers and EPCOR will welcome hockey player Sami Jo Small, a two-time Olympic gold medallist, to Rexall Place as part of the EPCOR Parade of Champions during tonight's Oilers game versus the St. Louis Blues. Small will participate in the Honour Guard and sign autographs on the concourse during the second intermission.

METRO EDMONTON



Edmonton tweets

- @RedSci I'm definitely grateful I decided to stay in #yeg this Xmas. sure wouldn't want to be flying right now. Those poor ppl stuck in the airports!
- @threebrightstar We're heading down Candy Cane Lane to see the Christmas lights. Always happy-making! #yeg
- @bwestcott Ben McFarland's 'World's Best Beers' rates Alley Kat Olde Deuteronomy as the best beer in Canada. Awesome. #yeg

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Immigration

Gudy Mammam has the story of an immigrant caught between two agencies at metronews.ca/immigration

**Lotteries**

Friday, Dec. 18
Lotto Max: 8, 10, 15, 17, 33, 34 & 35 Bonus 13
Saturday, Dec. 19
Lotto 6/49: 12, 15, 19, 41, 42 & 49 Bonus 48
These results are not official.

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Shinny Playing with the big boys



Edmonton Oil Kings captain Rhett Rachinski tries to beat out Sherwood Park Hawks' Ryan Thorne, 10, yesterday at the Strathcona Athletic Park as a part of the ENMAX Pond Hockey series.

CANDICE WARD/METRO EDMONTON

Snow Valley gives back to city's youth

Skiers, snowboarders lured to holiday festivities

CANDICE WARD
for Metro Edmonton



Beautiful conditions and decent temperatures carved out the Snow Valley's second annual holiday celebration yesterday.

With fundraising for Edmonton's Youth Emergency Shelter Society taking place throughout the day, Snow Valley found a way to give back and provide some holiday fun.

"We wanted to celebrate the holidays with our community," said Kristina Zelko, marketing co-ordinator for Snow Valley.

Two-for-one lift passes were offered to anyone

who brought warm clothing donations and sweet treats were available for sale as well, with proceeds going to YESST.

The break in frigid temperatures helped bring out many people who took part in the holiday festivities.

"We have gotten a really good start to the season," said Zelko.

With all the runs open and temperatures now levelling out to bearable levels, numbers are up from last year for Snow Valley so far this season.

"The snow is great, the weather's great, so it's been a great mix," said Zelko.

Instructors were also out

on the slopes, offering free tips to new and less experienced skiers and snowboarders.

"He always wanted to try it out," said Dustin Koenig, father of Edwin Ramierz, 10, who was trying out snowboarding for the first time.

"We rushed here to get him on a board right away," said Koenig.

m.metronews.ca



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No evidence missing teen was ever in Alberta, Mounties say

SEARCH RCMP say there is no evidence a missing young woman from Toronto is in Alberta or recently visited the province.

Earlier this month, Mounties looked into reports that Mariam Maknashvili, 18, was possibly seen in Grande Prairie.

There was also an earlier report that she was seen in October near Calgary.

Cpl. Wayne Oakes said

police checked out both tips and they were false.

Maknashvili was last seen arriving at school in Toronto with her younger brother on Sept. 14.

Police never detected any evidence of foul play after searching for the woman, who moved to Canada from the Republic of Georgia last summer and speaks little English.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Donations sought after apartment fire

CODIE MCLACHLAN
for Metro Edmonton



BLAZE An apartment fire in south Edmonton left 39 people, 21 of those children, temporarily homeless less than a week before Christmas on Friday after a pot of cooking oil was accidentally ignited.

One child and one firefighter were taken to hospital with minor injuries.

"There are 21 kids who are not going to have a

Christmas unless we get them some help right away," Heather McCallum, spokesperson for the Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society, said yesterday.

"We've compiled a wish list that we're asking the general public to help us out with."

The list includes household furnishings, kitchen items, linens and towels, unopened toiletries, and monetary donations to supply Christmas dinner. The society is also asking

the public to donate any Christmas decorations or gifts.

"We have Christmas trees at our warehouse, but we're asking the public for Christmas decorations and new Christmas gifts or gift certificates," McCallum said.

The society is working with the Canadian Red Cross to help the families. The Edmonton Emergency Relief Services Society can be reached at (780) 428-4422.

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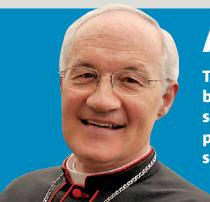
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One of Saskatchewan's major health-care unions is taking its fight against the province's essential services legislation to the next level. The Service Employees International Union is taking legal action against four of the province's regional health authorities. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Canada



Ad taken out to explain sex assaults

The brother of Quebec's Roman Catholic archbishop, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, left, is raising eyebrows in la belle province after he took out a newspaper ad on the weekend to explain past sexual assaults involving minors, CBC News Online is reporting. In the ad, Paul Ouellet says he pleaded guilty to charges of sexual assault to end the ordeal, and claims his only mistake was succumbing to "advances" made by his two young victims.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ministers met Red Cross head

MacKay, O'Connor, Day talked with organization's chief in '06

Three federal cabinet ministers and a senior government official met the head of the International Red Cross in the fall of 2006 as the humanitarian organization tried to focus Canada's attention on alleged abuses in Afghan prisons. The Canadian Press has learned.

Precisely what Jakob Kellenberger told Peter MacKay, Gordon O'Connor, Stockwell Day and Robert Greenhill, then the president of the Canadian International Development Agency, in the Sept. 26, 2006 meetings is blanketed by diplomatic secrecy.

MacKay was then Foreign

Red Cross

- The Red Cross is bound by international convention not to discuss with other countries what it saw in Afghan prisons.

But it could drop broad hints, as officials did at two meetings with Canadian officials in Kandahar in May and June 2006.

Affairs minister, O'Connor was at Defence and Day was Public Safety minister overseeing Corrections Canada officers in Kandahar.

While the details of the meeting are secret, enough was said about Afghanistan to generate a report from MacKay's office a month later, which flagged the Red Cross president's concerns.

The contents of the re-

port, one of thousands of documents filed in the Military Police Complaints Commission investigation of torture allegations, are censored.

The email was titled: "Re: meeting with ICRC president re detention issues."

The Conservative government has insisted it never received direct warnings about possible Afghan tor-

ture of Canadian-transferred prisoners, although MacKay has conceded that general concerns were heard almost from the moment the government took office in early 2006.

The fact the Red Cross meetings took place raises further questions about what the federal government knew and the kind of warnings they received in those critical early months.

Officially, the Red Cross would only say the talks focused on topics including Afghanistan, humanitarian law in modern conflicts and co-operation with Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

MOTHERS A recently published study by the Quebec bureau of statistics indicates having children is related to a drop in a woman's participation in the workforce and an increase in part-time work. The opposite was observed in men — in fact, more fathers were working than men without children. The study suggests that despite the fact the rate of working women with children more than doubled over the last three decades, one in five mothers still chose part-time work.

SIMPSONS An American philosophy professor who has edited a series of books about how such TV programs such as The Simpsons has affected popular culture says many people may be concerned about nuclear power from watching the animated show. Movies about nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl and Three Mile Island have also added to negative publicity.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Value of public inquiries doubted

POLITICS With the country awash in calls for an arm's-length probe into a variety of brewing scandals, questions are being raised about the efficacy of public inquiries.

While some inquiries are successful, others like the recently completed and widely criticized probe into an alleged pedophile ring in Cornwall, Ont., are long, expensive and poorly focused.

Some critics argue highly politicized inquiries solve more issues through negative publicity than through the recommendations they produce.

Others say they tarnish reputations, breach individual rights and aren't worth the damage they do to the public's faith in government institutions.

Prime Minister Stephen

Harper has faced daily attacks in the House of Commons for failing to probe allegations raised by diplomat Richard Colvin that Canada knowingly turned Afghan prisoners over to torture.

Quebec Premier Jean Charest's recent drop in opinion polls can partly be attributed to his steadfast refusal to allow an inquiry into allegations of corruption involving politicians, construction companies and the Italian Mafia.

Public inquiries have become so ubiquitous in Canada that when politicians refuse to call them, they're automatically accused of trying to hide something. But as opposition parties, the public and other stakeholders continue pressing the issue, there

are some who sympathize, at least in part, with the leaders.

Toronto lawyer Clayton Ruby says inquiries are good at exposing evidence of wrongdoing, but that the recommendations made by these costly commissions ultimately end up on library shelves gathering dust.

"No one listens to the recommendations," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Internet revolutionized how Canadians communicate in the past decade, and the coming decade will continue by taking the Net mobile. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/canada.

Ontario South Korean carries flame



World figure skating champion Kim Yu-Na of South Korea carries the Olympic flame in Hamilton, Ont., on Saturday.

Feds scrambling to get national pavilion ready for Olympics

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

PROMOTION The Conservative government is in an 11-hour scramble to put together a national pavilion at the Vancouver Olympics, even though it was advised for years by bureaucrats and partners that it should take advantage of the Winter Games to promote Canada to the world.

Insiders say it's all part of a penny-pinching approach the Tories have taken to leveraging the Olympics for

economic gain.

The late planning means the government has been frantically trying to secure a live feed of Olympic competitions for its pavilion, a source said.

The Games begin in just under two months.

Meanwhile, the provinces have had their "houses" in order for months, with Ontario alone spending \$4.5 million on its pavilion. The buildings and tents are designed to showcase everything from tourism to investment opportunities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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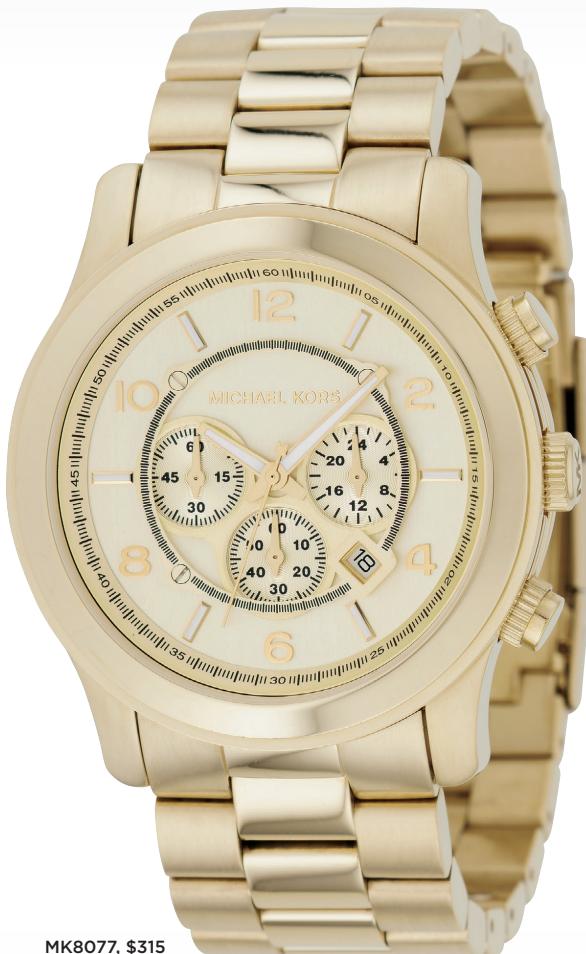
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6 canada

Women's bookstore struggling to stay open

Nearly two decades after almost being destroyed in a firebombing, the Toronto Women's Bookstore is once again fighting for its survival. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Mousehunt trapping millions of gamers

There's a place where mice are welcome, where make-believe rodents eat make-believe cheese millions of times each day.

It's a land of serene meadows and mayhem, of calm clearings and dusty catacombs infested by clever little critters that may rob you blind or give you buckets of gold.

The magical world of Mousehunt exists in a spartan second-floor office in Oakville, Ont., where computer wizards and artists have developed a Facebook game played by nearly two million people around the world.

It's a tongue-in-cheek nation centred in the Town of Gnawnia, where players help the king rid the kingdom of mice in all shapes and sizes. The king even pays players an hourly wage in gold, which they use to buy cheese and traps, which will get them even more gold as they rise through the hunter ranks.

Some traps smash mice to smithereens. Others as-



Hitgrab CEO Joel Augé shows off some mice sent to its Oakville office by fans of its popular Facebook game Mousehunt.

sault them with loud music or drop them into a bottomless grave. There are even humane traps that fling mice into a fantasy world of endless cheese.

You don't have to spend a dime to play Mousehunt, but players can buy online Super Brie, which attracts mice better than the ordi-

nary cheddar, gouda or special blends that players can craft themselves.

"We're really in the business of selling pretend cheese," says Joel Augé, 31-year-old CEO of Hitgrab, the company that runs Mousehunt and a new game called Mythmonger.

"We're purveyors of fine digital cheese," he adds with a laugh.

It's worked so much better than the first Facebook foray he and partner Brian Freeman made in 2006, when they started an application to help brides organize wedding details, gifts and registrations.

"It failed miserably," he said, because it meant investing a lot of screen time.

The beauty of Mousehunt is that it takes just seconds to check your trap or sound the hunter's horn, which begins the search for mice. Even if you're not in the game, Facebook friends who play can help you nab mice while you're away.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MPs ask PM to let ex-KGB agent living in church stay in Canada

SANCTUARY A pair of B.C. politicians are appealing to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to act in the spirit of Christmas and allow to stay in Canada a former KGB agent who's taken sanctuary in a church.

Mikhail Lennikov has lived in a Vancouver church since Lennikov the government denied his application to stay in the country six months

ago, though he's resided with his wife and son here for 12 years.

MPs Ujjal Dosanjh and Don Davies stood beside the man yesterday and made the public request to grant the 49-year-old permanent residence.

Lennikov has repeatedly said his work in the 1980s as a translator for the Soviet security agency was in-

nocuous and commenced under pressure.

Last week, he produced 3,500 pages of documents from government departments in an attempt to show there is nothing to back up claims he is a national security threat.

Border officials have so far respected a convention not to enter the church and arrest Lennikov, who says he's unsure how long his stay will last.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

metro

Metro Edmonton, Editorial and Photography Interns, Edmonton AB

Metro Edmonton is inviting applications for reporting and photography internships.

The positions offer hands-on experience in a daily newsroom for journalists and photographers or recent grads who are beginning their careers. The positions are non-paid.

Successful applicants in the past have excelled at generating story ideas and writing concise and compelling features as well as covering breaking news. The ideal candidate can also combine photography and reporting skills.

Qualifications

The positions are open to students and recent graduates (within the last year or two).

The internships are full-time and start January 2010. They run for three-four weeks, based on availability, Sundays to Thursdays.

No calls please. Only those applicants considered for the position will be contacted.

Please e-mail samples of your work, a cover letter and resume identifying all relevant experience and/or skills to:

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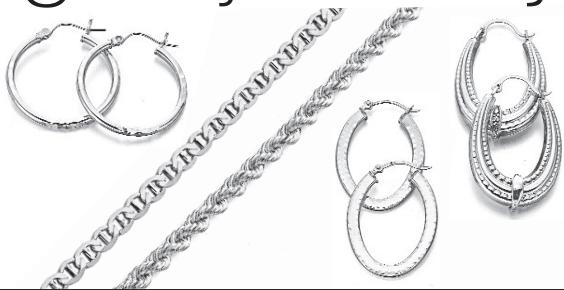
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Afghan troops tested

The harsh sound of the national anthem blasting over the Afghan countryside on the weekend left little doubt that a new battle for one of the most dangerous districts of southern Afghanistan had been joined in earnest.

As Canadian soldiers turned up the volume on

the portable speaker and two American Kiowa helicopters twisted and turned overhead, Canadian-mentored Afghan soldiers swept through the village of Chahar Bagh.

Scores of freshly arrived U.S. troops — ultimately under Canadian command — provided firepower support.

Without subtlety, Operation Eagle had landed, marking several firsts.

The daylong sweep of Chahar Bagh was the first time the Canadian-mentored battalion of Afghan soldiers — known as 3rd Kandak — had planned and executed a major operation. It was also the first time

the 2-508 unit of the U.S. 82nd Airborne had deployed in Canada's new area of operations.

Arghandab is prized by the Taliban insurgency as a key entrance to Kandahar city just to the south.

Maj. Andrew Vivian, who heads the unit of Canadian mentors for 3rd Kandak,

admitted feeling like a teacher whose students are about to take an important exam.

"Ultimately, we succeed when the ANA are out flourishing on their own," Vivian said. "If they succeed, it means we have done our jobs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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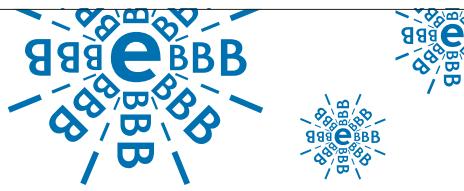
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A strong earthquake destroyed several buildings in the African nation of Malawi yesterday, killing at least three people and injuring about 200, a government official said. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

World



Adams says father abused his family

Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams, left, says his late father was a man who emotionally, physically and sexually abused members of his family. Adams' disclosure comes as the president of the Irish Republican Army-linked party calls on his brother Liam to surrender to police to answer charges that he abused his daughter. Adams says that he has no recollection of being personally abused and did not go into detail about the allegations. Gerry Adams Sr., a former IRA prisoner, died in 2003.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel admits it harvested organs

Israel has admitted that in the 1990s, its forensic pathologists harvested organs from dead bodies, including Palestinians, without permission of their families.

The issue emerged with publication of an interview with the then-head of Israel's Abu Kabir forensic institute, Dr. Jehuda Hiss.

The interview was conducted in 2000 by an American academic, who released it because of a huge controversy last summer over an allegation by a Swedish newspaper that Israel was killing Palestinians in order to harvest their organs. Israel hotly denied the charge.

Settlers enraged by slowdown plan

- Israeli authorities could soon use special commando units, unmanned spy planes and cellphone-jamming equipment to enforce a moratorium on new settlement construction in the West Bank, military officials said yesterday, deepening a show-

down between the government and Jewish settlers. Enraged settlers vowed to resist the plan, prompting Defence Minister Ehud Barak to warn they would face the full wrath of the military if they continue to flout the 10-month slowdown.

Parts of the interview were broadcast on Israel's Channel 2 TV over the weekend.

In it, Hiss said, "We started to harvest corneas ... Whatever was done was highly informal. No permission was asked from the family." In a response

to the TV report, the Israeli military confirmed that the practice took place.

"This activity ended a decade ago and does not happen any longer," the military said in a statement quoted by Channel 2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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"This activity ended a decade ago and does not happen any longer," the military said in a statement quoted by Channel 2.

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Pakistan Heightened security



Pakistani women walk past a police officer in the troubled city of Peshawar yesterday. Authorities are taking extra security measures during the Shiite Muslim mourning month of Muhamarram, as security agencies fear an increased level of violence.

SS360.GOV/DOSSA/PHOTO/USCIA/WWW.HOW

China defends climate accord

CLIMATE CHANGE China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, lauded yesterday the outcome of a historic UN climate conference that ended with a non-binding agreement that urges major polluters to make deeper emissions cuts — but does not require it. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the international climate talks that brought more than 110 leaders together in Copenhagen produced "significant and positive" results.

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Dozens killed in Nigerian crash

At least 55 people died and 38 others were injured when a truck carrying bags of fertilizer slammed into a market in central Nigeria. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

world 11

Bill almost there

U.S. Senate health-care legislation on track for passage

U.S. Senate Democrats pushed toward a critical vote to advance historic health-care reform legislation as outnumbered Republicans pledged a fight to the end against President Barack Obama's top domestic policy priority.

On Saturday, jubilant Senate Democrats announced they had locked in the 60th and decisive vote needed to overcome Republican stalling tactics. That came from moderate Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, the last holdout in their caucus, who declared his support for revised legislation crafted by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

That put the bill firmly on a path for Christmas Eve passage.

"It represents the culmination of a struggle begun by (President) Theodore Roosevelt nearly a century ago."

U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden in an editorial in yesterday's New York Times

To keep the process moving under Senate rules, Democrats will need to show 60 votes in a series of votes. The first — and most critical — test vote on a cloture motion to end debate on the bill was set for about a 1 a.m. debate.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Obama's opponent in last year's election, said there was probably nothing to keep Democrats from passing the bill by Christmas Eve.

Still, he said, Republicans would not relent in the bat-

tle for public opinion. "We'll fight the good fight. We will fight until the last vote," said McCain. He said the political climate under Obama has become more partisan than ever.

Vice-President Joe Biden wrote in The New York Times yesterday that senators should support the bill because "it represents the culmination of a struggle begun by (President) Theodore Roosevelt nearly a century ago" to improve health care.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

EUROPE Snowstorms and sub-freezing temperatures have battered Europe, killing 29 people in Poland alone and wreak-

ing havoc on air, train and car travellers on the last weekend before Christmas. France's aviation authority or-

dered the cancellation of 40 per cent of flights from Paris' two airports yesterday.

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Rare white rhinos relocated
Four of the world's last known eight northern white rhinos landed in Kenya yesterday and were transported to a game park where officials hope the endangered mammals will reproduce and save their subspecies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain-France rail link closed for train probe

Breakdowns left thousands stuck in tunnel

The only rail link between Britain and France was closed indefinitely yesterday as Eurostar investigated a series of train breakdowns that trapped thousands of people in the Channel Tunnel for hours.

The stoppage meant that about 31,000 people in Britain, France and Belgium had to cancel trips planned on Eurostar on Saturday, and 26,000 more were expected to be affected yesterday.

Eurostar originally said that four of its trains were halted in the tunnel Friday evening.

Travel troubles

- The problem is the latest of several that British travellers have faced as the Christmas and New Year's holidays approach. Several airports have been affected by unusually heavy snowfalls.

Yesterday the company said a fifth train had also been disabled in the tunnel before being towed to London. A sixth train broke down Friday, although outside the tunnel, 38 kilometres of which sits

under the English Channel, Eurostar said.

Trapped Eurostar passengers spoke of languishing in the dark for up to 16 hours without adequate food, water or any clear idea of what was happening.

Following unsuccessful attempts to move some passengers between London and Paris on Saturday evening, the company has cancelled all services "until we get to the bottom of what happened Friday night," Eurostar chief executive Richard Brown said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No problems with Palin: McCain

POLITICS Sen. John McCain says he understands why Sarah Palin blacked out his name on a McCain campaign visor so she could avoid recognition while on vacation in Hawaii.

The Arizona Republican made the comments about his 2008 running mate on Fox News yesterday.

Palin blacked out McCain's name with a felt marker recently, saying

she is fond of McCain but wanted to travel "incognito."

McCain said yesterday he has no problems with the blacked-out name.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Macau Dubious anniversary



Hundreds of demonstrators march yesterday in Macau, during the 10th anniversary of the former Portuguese enclave's return to Chinese rule. Hundreds of demonstrators called for greater economic equity, an end to corruption and the right to elect the territory's leader, currently appointed by Beijing and rubber-stamped by a committee in Macau.

Iraqi PM journeys to Egypt

VISIT Iraq's prime minister opened a landmark visit to Egypt yesterday in what aides called an ambitious attempt to improve relations with one of the Arab world's most powerful players.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's last visit to Egypt was in 2007 as part of an international conference on Iraq's future. But this visit was designed for meetings with Egyptian officials.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

VOLCANO The Philippines' most active volcano could erupt within days, officials warned yesterday after detecting a drastic surge in quakes and rumbling sounds in surrounding foothills. Tens of thousands have been evacuated as a precaution.

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Comment & Views

EDITOR: MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

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Comment

Kudos to city council

Surprise result approves entire light rail transit package

InTransit

Brian Gould

metronews.ca/gould

Heading into part 2 of the LRT public hearing, it was looking like the best-case result would see the lines to the north and southeast passed, but the west leg held hostage to indecision.

However, I'm happy — and surprised — to report the vote ended up 9-4 in favour of the whole package, including the controversial Stony Plain Road section.

The councillors remaining opposed were Jane Batt, Karen Leibovici, Linda

Sloan and Tony Caterina. Caterina predictably used it to take another shot at the airport closure decision and blamed both votes on blogging — a form of public participation, last I checked.

The surprise result came after a revised administration presentation. Before the presentation, 107 Avenue seemed to have cost savings and political expediency going for it.

Afterward, it suddenly had neither, with the \$250-million savings becoming \$30 million on account of some previously unidentified expropriation east of Groat Road.

What didn't change was that the 107th would have added an unnecessary kilometre to the route and continued to give priority to drivers. Unfortunately, some councillors continue

to defend this priority.

As someone who voted in Batty's downtown ward (for Coun. Ben Henderson, mind you), I'm disappointed that she, along with Leibovici, seem more concerned with maintaining space for cars than increasing the total number of people able to travel along the corridor.

Not only is the west LRT expected to see 50,000 daily riders, it's only expected to divert 10,000 cars from SPR. The key word here is divert: There are alternate routes, and the road network will rebalance itself.

Once the design process begins, there will be enough detail to properly deal with any actual problems that arise. If there's a better way to handle SPR between 156 and 149 streets, it can only be found moving forward.

We can only go so far, however, without funding. I'd love to say the province will come through, but the previously pledged \$2 billion for transit has all but disappeared.

Meanwhile, Toronto is moving forward thanks to the Ontario government, which just this year handed more than \$4.6 billion for a 33-kilometre LRT line and another \$3.2 billion for various other extensions to the TTC's rail system.

This decision means we have the routes. One is practically ready to build, the others might only be a few years behind. Council should be congratulated for bringing us this far, but without the money it's just talk.

Brian Gould is a transportation planner and has served in a variety of roles with the Transit Riders' Union of Edmonton.



Worth mentioning

Eco-friendly shopping may lead to bad habits: Study

Buying green may help save the planet, but a new study suggests it might also make you more prone to cheat,

items.

They found students who chose green products were less likely to act altruistically afterwards than those who were simply exposed to green products.

Purchasing habits

- While the findings might deflate the self-righteous air of those who brag about bringing canvas bags to the grocery store, researcher Nina Mazar says it definitely shouldn't be seen as a condemnation of environmentally friendly purchasing habits.

In a paper to be published in an upcoming issue of the journal Psychological Science, University of Toronto researchers Ni- na Mazar and Chen-Bo Zhong studied how students behaved after being given the option of purchasing environmentally friendly products, like organic yogurt or biodegradable laundry detergent, or conventional

Rotman School of Management, builds on research into the idea of "moral regulation" — that people either consciously or unconsciously balance bad deeds with good ones.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Views

Christmas – a lot of assembly required

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Today, our final instalment on Prepping for the Holidays:

Sanity: Is it overrated?

Or, all I want for Christmas is a G-17A size 12 Allen key.

After the excitement of Christmas morning comes another traditional holiday event: Assembly Afternoon.

In olden days, Assembly Afternoon did not exist. A ball was a ball. A jump rope was a jump rope. And a quoit and skittle set was ... actually, I have no idea what that was. But the point is, it didn't need to

be put together. You got your quoit and your skittle and you were good to go.

Now that we live in more convenient times, it's likely that at least one gift you receive will have to be assembled, mounted or, it may seem, built entirely from scratch. This is because manufacturers ship their products in parts for obvious reasons: They can't figure out how the heck to put the thing together either.

To be ready for Assembly Afternoon, here's what you'll need:

1. A translator.

These days most items come with instructions that have been thoughtfully translated into a wide variety of languages. These may include Klingon, Hobbit and British

semaphore, but they will never, ever include what-ever language you speak.

2. The home phone number of a hardware store owner.

Before Christmas, take time to do a full inventory of what tools and equipment you have. Now know that whatever you already own is not what you are going to need to do the task at hand.

Another important note here: Any box that says "batteries included," doesn't.

3. A whacking thing.

At some point it will become clear that Piece C is not going to go into Slot A without some serious persuasion. Excellent whacking things I have used in-

clude Nutcracker dolls and that extra piece that didn't seem to fit anywhere. Tip: Do not use your spouse's new BlackBerry. Trust me on this one.

4. Assistance.

While most assembly efforts are one-person jobs, it's traditional to have someone on hand to provide helpful comments such as, "That's not how I'd do it," and "Too bad you have to do that or you could be having a drink like me." While it's not OK to use the whacking thing on this person, it is perfectly acceptable to give them a gift next year that comes in a ka-gillion pieces.

Wishing you all a happy holiday and joyous Assembly Afternoon!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

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A jury Friday awarded more than \$100 million US to 10 workers who said they were injured in 2007 by a toxic substance at BP PLC's Texas City plant. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Markets expected to stay volatile

Stock markets are expected to remain volatile in the shortened trading week ahead of Christmas, as investors clean up their books before the start of the new year.

Motivation will come from turbulent commodity prices which proved especially unpredictable last week as the U.S. dollar bounced around in value.

Traders will also be making last-minute trades to meet the tax-loss trading deadline for the year.

"There's a whole bunch

of conflicted forces at work," said John Johnston, chief strategist at the Harbour Group at RBC Dominion Securities. "The U.S. economy is showing pretty decisive indications that it's in an economic recovery, but a very slow one."

Markets will operate on a regular schedule until Christmas Eve, when they close at 1 p.m. ET on both sides of the border and will remain closed for Christmas.

Economists and observers have predicted

trading this month would be relatively muted compared with previous years partly because the TSX rallied in early November to a high for the year.

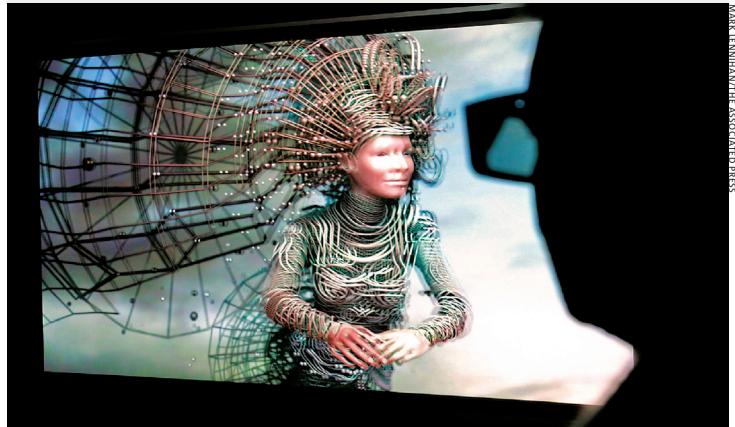
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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After ending a border dispute with Iran, Iraq's rebuilding oil industry moves toward developing a lucrative oilfield. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/world

New York Larger than life



MARK LIDDELL/REUTERS

A visitor to Stereo Exchange in New York over the weekend wears 3-D glasses to view a demonstration of Digital Projection's Titan 1080p 3-D projector on a three-metre screen. The English company is marketing the 3-D systems to high-end home users and the military.

Business in brief

TECH The BlackBerry faces more competition in the consumer market, especially in North America, and its entry into China will have challenges, analysts say. Fresh from a gain of more than 10 per cent on Friday and after

beating profit expectations, Research In Motion faced questions about if it can maintain such growth. PC Magazine analyst Sascha Segan said BlackBerrys are starting to look a bit dull and "definitely need a facelift."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Spyker makes new Saab offer

AUTO In a final attempt to rescue Saab Automobile AB, Dutch automaker Spyker Cars submitted a new offer yesterday to buy the Swedish brand from General Motors. Spyker said it has submitted a new 11-point proposal to GM, addressing the issues that made talks collapse earlier this week.

GM on Friday said issues arose during the sales talks that could not be resolved, and the window of time to complete a deal was small.

Spyker CEO Victor Muller said he hoped the new offer would make GM change its mind.

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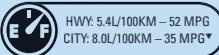
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CHEVROLET

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American pika losing its home

Going Green

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

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Going Green



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China using pig power

Village becomes model for renewable energy with bio-fuel

ANN-AËL DURAND
Metro World News

The inhabitants of Cao Tian Da, in the Chinese province of Yunnan, cook and heat their homes with pig excrement — an example of transition towards new energies encouraged by China.

The signs painted along the road state it clearly: Cao Tian Da is a "model village for renewable energy." This 140-inhabitant hamlet, in the mountains of Yunnan, seems traditional, with red-clay houses, corn ears hung for drying, and chickens running in the courtyard. But in the streets, public lamps are equipped with solar panels.

On the roof, brand-new solar heaters are glittering, and on the whitewashed walls, crude paintings explain how to use the new energy: bio-gas, made from pig feces.

"It is very convenient," explains Wan Qin, in her new kitchen.

The young peasant opens a tap and activates a gas stove — much better than her old fireplace.

"Before, I had to collect firewood in the mountain, with my baby on my back. Now, I am relieved. We also have hot water with the heater."

Her electricity bill has been reduced by half, and the forest is preserved. An important issue for these families: their village has been moved by the authorities for environmental reasons linked with defor-

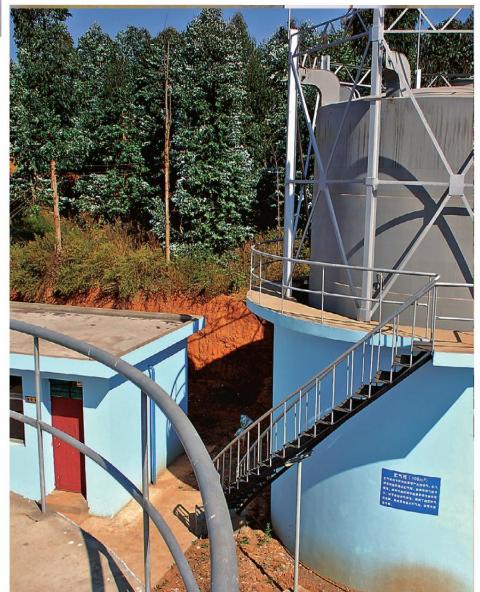


Pig feces is used to create bio-gas which powers these homes.

45 In China, 45 per cent of the population still lives in the countryside. China has become a bigger greenhouse gas issuer in the last two years. It is one of the most polluted countries, suffering from acid rains, desertification and water contamination.

estation.

The gas in Wan Qin kitchen is freely provided by an industrial pigsty, 1 km away. The company, Hui Jian, strongly subsidized by the local authorities, keeps the excrement of its 2,000 pigs in big manure pits — 250 cubic metres per day, which ferment and produce methane.



The industrial pigsty keeps the excrement of 2,000 pigs, which is used to create a bio gas that powers the nearby village.

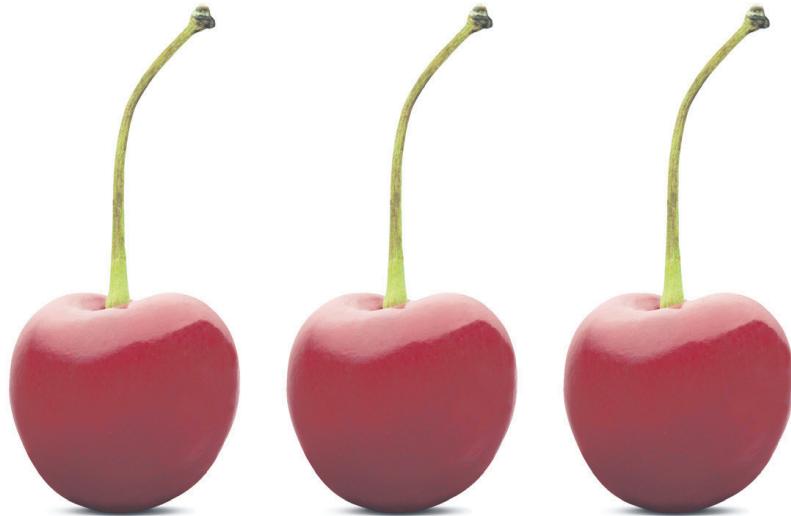
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The Oakland Athletics are close to agreeing with free-agent outfielder Coco Crisp on a one-year contract with a club option for the 2011 season. A person with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed an impending deal on condition of anonymity. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Monday, December 21, 2009

Athletics close to signing Crisp

Sports



EDITOR: DON.MCHOUILL@METRONEWS.CA

Grieving Bengals fall short

NFL

Bengals 24 Chargers 27



Nate Kaeding kicked a 52-yard field goal with three seconds left and the playoff-bound San Diego Chargers pulled out a dramatic 27-24 win over the grieving Cincinnati Bengals yesterday.

The winning kick came after Philip Rivers moved the Chargers 46 yards in 51 seconds with no timeouts and backup centre Dennis Norman snapping after Scott Mruckzkowski was injured.

A few minutes after the final gun, the Chargers clinched their fourth straight AFC West title when Denver lost 20-19 to Oakland.

Playoff picture

• San Diego, Arizona and Minnesota clinched division titles yesterday, while Philadelphia surged into the playoffs as at least a wild card.

San Diego (11-3) won its ninth straight game and clinched a playoff spot before halftime because of other results. The Bolts improved to 17-0 in December dating to 2006.

The Bengals (9-5) failed for the second straight week to clinch the AFC North.

Cincinnati, playing three days after the death of receiver Chris Henry, had tied the game at 24 on Shayne Graham's 34-yard field goal with 54 seconds left.

The Bengals wore decals with Henry's No. 15 on their helmets. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Chad Ochocinco of the Cincinnati Bengals kneels after scoring a touchdown against the San Diego Chargers yesterday.

Williams sets record

Miami running back Ricky Williams reached 1,000 yards rushing for this season on his fifth carry yesterday against Tennessee, setting an NFL record for the longest span between 1,000-yard seasons at six years. This marks the fifth 1,000-yard rushing season of his career.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL encourages players to donate their brains

The NFL is partnering with Boston University brain researchers who have been critical of the league's stance on concussions, The Associated Press learned yesterday.

The league now plans to encourage current and former NFL players to agree to donate their brains to the Boston University Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, which has said it found links between repeated head trauma and brain damage in boxers, football players and, most recently, a former NHL player.

"It's huge that the NFL actively gets behind this research," said Robert Cantu, a co-director of the BU centre who has spoken negatively about the league in the past. "It forwards the research. It allows players to realize the NFL is concerned about the possibility that they could have this problem, and that the NFL is doing everything it can to find out about the risks and the preventive strategies that can be implemented."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told the AP yesterday that the league also is committed to giving \$1 million US or more to the centre.

"The precise amount hasn't been determined," Aiello said.

"We will discuss it with them. It depends on their needs. We are committed

"It's huge that the NFL actively gets behind this research."

Robert Cantu, Boston University.

to funding research" on brain injuries.

Robert Stern, an associate professor of neurology at the Boston University School of Medicine and one of Cantu's co-directors of the centre, said the group is pleased that the NFL is playing a role.

"Although we discussed with the NFL how they might facilitate players' participation in our research into the long-term effects of repetitive head trauma in athletes, we did not request financial support to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest," Stern said in a statement issued yesterday. "Any financial support from the NFL would need to be free of any real or perceived conflict of interest."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 101 Atlanta 98 (OT)
St. Louis 3 Vancouver 1
SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Montreal 3 N.Y. Islanders 0
Ottawa 2 Boston 0
Toronto 2 Calgary 3
Nashville 5 Calgary 3
Washington 4 EDMONTON 2
Anaheim 4 Phoenix 2
Carolina 3 Florida 2
Colorado 5 Columbus 2
Dallas 4 Detroit 3
New Jersey 5 Atlanta 4
N.Y. Rangers 2 Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 2 Buffalo 1 (SO)

TODAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Indiana, 5 p.m.
Utah at Orlando, 5 p.m.
Sacramento at Chicago, 6 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Phoenix, 7 p.m.

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Tennessee 27 Miami 24 (OT)
Arizona 31 Detroit 24
Atlanta 10 N.Y. Jets 7
Houston 16 St. Louis 13
New England 17 Buffalo 10
Cleveland 41 Kansas City 34
Oakland 20 Denver 19
San Diego 21 Detroit 24
Baltimore 31 Chicago 7
Tampa Bay 24 Seattle 7
Pittsburgh 27 Green Bay 36

PHILADELPHIA 27 SAN FRANCISCO 13

Carolina 26 Minnesota 7

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Dallas 24 New Orleans 17

TODAY'S GAME

N.Y. Giants at Washington, 6:30 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 98 New Orleans 92
Boston 122 Minnesota 104
L.A. Lakers 93 Detroit 81
Memphis 102 Denver 96
Portland 102 Miami 95
New York 98 Charlotte 94

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Dallas 24 New Orleans 17

TODAY'S GAME

N.Y. Giants at Washington, 6:30 p.m.

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Playing hooky with swine flu

A couple of university students interviewed by Maclean's admit to faking H1N1 in order to get out of class or exams, as schools across the country have revised their sick-note policies and encouraged students with flu-like symptoms to stay far away from campus, no questions asked. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

A Santa suit dresses up a third career

OddJobs

Diane Peters



Metronews.ca/oddjobs

There are few jobs that value a mature complexion, white beard and a somewhat stocky body type. But if you look the part, playing Santa like Bob McTavish does on a regular basis is a great job.

McTavish, 67, got his first gig as Santa five years ago when organizers of a Christmas party in Bala, near his home in Ontario's Muskoka region, needed someone last minute.

Word soon got around that McTavish "does Santa," and it took off from there.

This, of course, is not his first career. He started off in business, and worked in senior management for a various retail chains. Twenty years ago, he left corporate life and started up his own real estate brokerage

for business clients.

Eight years ago, he moved from Toronto to Muskoka, renovated his dad's old cottage and was reconsidering his career options — the real estate business was slowing down — when the Santa work started.

"I was looking for something to take up the slack," says McTavish.

The jobs working parties and parades fit his schedule: it takes up much of the early winter while real estate gets busy in the spring.

"I'm reasonably young. I know another fellow who's 86 and he's been doing it for 16 years. This is a long term position."

This year, McTavish began working in malls. "I'm developing my Santa business just like I developed my real estate business."

Surprisingly, his business experience helps with his new job. "I was trained in retail where I learned you have to treat the customer with incredible respect."

At parties, he roams the room chatting with kids and adults, making sure everyone's happy. For pa-



Bob McTavish dons his Santa suit to entertain the crowds.

rades (where he wears good quality long underwear), it's the most fun when he has a mike and can chat with the crowd.

At the village and at malls, it's all about one-on-one chats with kids, getting them to talk about what they want, what they're interested in, and getting into casual chats about cookies, Mrs. Claus and reindeer.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Santa Claus
Salary: \$250 to \$500 a day or event

Education/training: There are a few Santa schools in North America, but he learned on the job.

Best Part of the Job: "Individual people ... You know someone is taking pleasure from what you're doing."

Worst Part of the Job: "Families who push kids beyond the point they should be pushed."

New site for N.S. university

The University of King's College has a new-look website. The site describes the Halifax-based institution as a "tightly-knit and extraordinarily lively academic community." On the site, visitors will find testimonials from past students, recent Twitter posts, event listings and news headlines.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nurse numbers up

The number of nurses working in Canada rose by 8.3 per cent between 2004 and last year, a new study indicates.

The report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information, released Friday, said the number of employed nurses reached 341,431.

"We're certainly encouraged by the number," said Rachel Bard, CEO of the Canadian Nurses Association.

"We've always said that nurses do bring solutions to the system, and this is certainly recognizing that nurses are part of the solution in the efforts to meet Canada's complex health-care challenges."

The rate of growth for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses exceeded the rate of population growth over the past five years, while the registered psychiatric nurse workforce in Western Canada kept pace with population growth, the statistics show.

A positive develop-

ment in the number of community health nurses and more nurses working in telehealth, Bard said.

"We all know that we need to shift the locus of care, we need to reach people where they are, so registered nurses play a key role in supporting community and individuals in managing their own health," Bard said in an interview from Ottawa.

The Canadian population is aging, and there is a need to ensure there will be enough nurses to support elderly people in the years to come, she noted.

"You want to balance and really bring some self-sufficiency into the system," she said. "If I look at the number of nursing students that graduated in 2008, it was 9,113, but there's only a net gain of 3,008 nurses due to the retirement of the aging workforce, and people moving we're in the right direction when you look at the numbers,

but we still need to be very vigilant in continuing to address it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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From co-worker to Facebook friend

It is one of the most socially awkward situations at the office.

You're talking to your boss or co-worker, when they casually ask to be your friend on Facebook.

You quickly think of the juicy comments posted on your wall, or that photo of you gulping margaritas in a bathing suit. Within seconds, you have to decide between saying 'yes' or finding a way to decline the offer without hurting anyone's feelings (or your chance at a promotion).

It has happened regularly to a 28-year-old public relations worker in Winnipeg we'll call Nathalie. She doesn't want her real name used for obvious reasons.

"Your boss doesn't need to see what you're doing on the weekend," she said.

"There are lines and there are boundaries. The only co-workers that are my Facebook friends are people that would be hanging out with me."

Nathalie has become rather adept at sidestepping workplace requests for Facebook friendship. She tells some co-workers

she rarely uses Facebook. She has told others she would add them as friends, knowing she would not follow through, and has feigned ignorance in subsequent conversations.

Nathalie has also set her privacy settings so that she is hidden from people searching for her on Facebook. Her photos, writings and other material can only be viewed by her friends.

The workplace is gaining more of a presence on Facebook, MySpace and other social networking sites. Companies are starting to see value in having a presence on Web 2.0. Many have set up corporate Facebook pages and have let employees know that they can become fans — an action that can make your Facebook page more visible to co-workers.

But should you feel obliged to open your social network page to coworkers? Not necessarily, says one expert.

"You have the same obligation as you would have if they wanted to be invited to your home for cocktails or for a dinner party," said



Adding co-workers as Facebook friends has its issues.

Arthur Schafer, a professor at the University of Manitoba's Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics.

"It might be prudent to promote collegial relations or to curry favour with the boss by socializing with them ... but you certainly have no obligation to."

Facebook has added new privacy options recently, allowing users to hide individual posts or pictures from specific friends. Of

course, even if no one at work can see your Facebook page, they can still find out what's on it. It happened earlier this year to a twenty-something woman we'll call Susan, who also doesn't want her name used.

Susan was upset with what she felt was a lack of security and cleanliness at a community event in Winnipeg. She complained about it on her Facebook

page, which is only visible to her 500-odd friends.

As it turns out, one of those friends was an employee of the event's organizers, who are clients of Susan's employer. Word got around and Susan found herself facing a tongue-lashing from her boss.

It raises the question, do employers have the right to discipline workers who slag them, the company or a client in quasi-public ar-

eas such as Facebook? In some cases, the answer seems to be yes.

"Do I have the right to discipline? I would say not, unless it's directly damaging to the company — saying 'This product is fraudulent,' for example," said John Melnyck, who teaches management ethics at the University of Winnipeg's business faculty.

Both professors agree that it is important to remember that anything posted online, even behind strict privacy settings, can make its way into the public sphere.

And that perhaps explains why people are reluctant to open their social networking pages to co-workers or superiors. Melnyck recently conducted an experiment on that front.

He asked students in one of his classes, en masse, to make him a friend on Facebook.

"It was a pretty even split of opinion," Melnyck chuckled. "Some people had no hesitation, other people said 'no way.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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* Completion of a BScN degree is required to write the Canadian Registered Nurse Examination

College students vent online over strike threat

STRIKE Another looming campus strike, another Facebook backlash.

As 24 community colleges brace for a possible teachers' walkout in January, more than 11,500 students are expressing their fear and anger via the Facebook website, as York University students did last year during their 12-week shutdown.

"We don't want a strike to happen. My sister went to York last year and lost out on a summer job because of that strike," said Humber College's Graeme McNaughton, who created the Facebook group Ontario College Students Against A Strike.

Two days of talks ended

"I don't blame students for being angry and frustrated,"

Ted Montgomery,
union negotiator

Tuesday between Colleges Ontario and the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union, with no plans to resume.

The union has set a strike vote for Jan. 13.

A petition on the Facebook group page has collected more than 1,800 signatures calling on both sides to reach a deal without stoppages.

In Facebook discussions, students from Toronto to Sudbury are fretting about how a strike could affect their student loans — "I will lose my apartment where me, my two cats and three-month-old son are living," worries one — as well as graduation dates and retraining for laid-off workers.

The union says it is fighting for academic freedom and more teacher control of workloads.

"I don't blame students for being angry and frustrated," said union negotiator Ted Montgomery.

Ditto, says Rob Savage at Colleges Ontario. "We hope we can negotiate a deal."

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Theron has a new collection

Actress Charlize Theron has launched a new collection of footwear to raise money for impoverished children in her native South Africa. The star debuted her eco-friendly, limited-edition footwear, designed with TOMS Shoes, on Friday. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Albums of the decade

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

It was a decade that started with boy bands and Britney, and ended with Bob Dylan singing Here Comes Santa Claus.

In between, an endless stream of over-produced and under-talented Idol winners managed to keep the big record labels from drowning in a pool of self-inflicted ennui. Yet, through all of this, we managed to find some exceptionally fine music. Here are 10 records from the past 10 years you can feel good about having in your library.

1. Foo Fighters, In Your Honor (2005): A double album shows the band at its best — plugged in and acoustic. It took on the other big double rock album of the decade — Stadium Arcadium by the Red Hot Chili Peppers — and won. With a string of radio friendly rockers, this is the album that made the Foo Fighters



the top band of the decade.

2. Feist, The Reminder (2007): Some critics would place Feist's



debut, Let It Die, above The Reminder. But let's face it, The Reminder put Feist at a higher level. It's also the album that broke the Canadian songstress internationally. These are well-crafted songs, written with style and originality, and sung in a uniquely alluring voice.

3. Coldplay, A Rush of Blood to the Head (2003):

This is the album that single-handedly saved EMI from disaster. The piano riff on Clocks alone makes this album a must. Coldplay started the decade a U2/Radiohead wannabe and reached 2010 well ahead of both.

4. Outkast, Speakerboxxx/The Love Below (2003):

This double album's two huge hits — Hey Ya and The Way You Move — broke hip hop through to the mainstream pop charts. At



The Foo Fighters' (frontman Dave Grohl, shown) In Your Honor is one of the albums from the last decade you should own.

the same time, its retro leanings toward funk and soul spelled the end to the genre as we knew it in the '80s and '90s. Melody became as important as the beat.

5. Arcade Fire, Funeral (2004): Few

were aware of the innovative indie-rock collectives that were thriving in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver until David Bowie stepped on stage with Arcade Fire at a New York gig in 2005. The world seemed to look at the Canadian indie scene differently after that.

6. Amy Winehouse, Back to Black (2006):

Sometimes there's a reason why artists sweep the Grammys. Winehouse managed to refer-



ence four decades of R&B music while still sounding original.

This album sparked a British retro-fad with a flurry of young Dusty Springfield's finding chart success.

7. White Stripes, Elephant (2003):

Who would have thought that there was anything left to say in rock

'n' roll until Jack White came along and managed to do what others couldn't with nothing but a drum kit, a guitar and a deft hand in the studio. This album proved that less can, indeed, be more. White has since managed to bring a touch of class to everything he touches.

8. Sam Roberts, We Were Born in a Flame (2003): It started with



a six-song EP that cost the Montreal rocker just \$65 to record. Two songs (Don't Walk Away Eileen and Brother Down) broke through after every major label turned them down. The three surprise Junos Sam received made us realize that there was more to Canadian rock 'n' roll than the Tragically Hip and Rush.

9. Kanye West, Graduation (2007):

OK, he's a jerk. He's proved that over and over. But sometimes we have to let reality pass and just listen to the music. Kanye's third album brought everything together and made his tremendous ego a little more bearable.

10. Neil Young, Live at Massey Hall 1971 (2007):

This spot was originally going to Ryan Adams' Gold (2001), which had a tremendous impact on a new breed of singer-songwriters, taking them back to their roots. Neil, however, is the real deal. He is their roots. And nothing had a bigger impact on young writers than the release of this remarkable concert album.

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Kellan Lutz is set to become the new face of Calvin Klein. The Twilight Saga: New Moon actor is reportedly being lined up to pose in his underwear for the fashion house. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Everyone's dancing to Indian pop beat

Music more common on albums of favourite artists, and also responsible for success of Desi Hits website

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Twenty years ago, Indian pop was weirdly exotic. Not so anymore. Today artists like Jay-Z and Missy Elliot sound "Indian" — and even Britney Spears has an Indian producer.

When Jay Sean burst on the music scene several years ago, he was labeled an Indian artist.

"I think of myself simply as an R&B artist. Just because you're Indian, people put you in a pigeonhole, and it's very hard to leave that pigeonhole."

Jay Sean

But Jay Sean — born Kamaljeet Singh Jhoothi — has succeeded. His 2004 debut album sold two million copies; this year his U.S. debut single topped the Billboard Hot 100.

Slumdog Millionaire showed that Indian pop culture has crossover appeal. So does the Internet website Desi Hits (desi-hits.com), which has risen to prominence along with Jay Sean.

"Slumdog has had a huge impact on people's interest in Indian pop and rock, especially since music played such an important role in it," says Desi Hits founder Anjula Acharia-Bath.

"So many artists, like M.I.A., Timbaland and the Black-Eyed Peas use Indian music, but people didn't know it was Indian until they watched Slumdog."

Acharia-Bath, a young British woman of Indian origin, founded Desi Hits after moving to the U.S. several years ago, and has fast become an entertain-

ment power-broker known for making matches between A-list fashion producers, musicians, actors and artists.

Desi Hits now has 1.2 million unique visitors per month, a 300-percent increase from one year ago.

Today Jay Sean lives in New York, but he often visits his

parents' home region of Punjab.

"India has all these musical events going on," he says.

"But the main-



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stream media doesn't cover them. There are lots of great festivals with 80,000 kids listening to a concert, but nobody outside India hears about it.

"The funny thing is, the music isn't that different," he said.

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

- 1 Avatar:** \$73 million US
- 2 The Princess and the Frog:** \$12.2 million
- 3 The Blind Side:** \$10 million
- 4 Did You Hear About the Morgans:** \$7 million
- 5 The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** \$4.4 million
- 6 Invictus:** \$4.2 million
- 7 Disney's A Christmas Carol:** \$3.4 million
- 8 Up in the Air:** \$3.1 million
- 9 Brothers:** \$2.6 million
- 10 Old Dogs:** \$2.3 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Desi Hits founder Anjula Acharia-Bath

Up-and-coming music of Indian origin

- Kazz Kumar (kazzkumar.com): The first lady of the Sona Family group has decided to go solo and revamp her image. She is very Lady Gaga-like in her sound and look.
- Jaya (jayaworld.com): Just signed to All Around the World, a sub-label of Universal Records. Releasing her first single Dj Do It Again soon.
- Imran Khan (imrankhan-world.com): His debut album

Unforgettable was the biggest selling urban Desi Hits album of the year.

• Jaya (jayaworld.com): Just signed to All Around the World, a sub-label of Universal Records. Releasing her first single Dj Do It Again soon.



Maci Bookout, 17, stars with her son Bentley on MTV's new reality show *Teen Mom*.

Amber Portwood's lunch with a friend keeps getting interrupted by a crying baby. The problem is, the baby is Amber's. She packs up and leaves the restaurant before she can finish eating.

Quieting a fussy baby is all in a day's work for the 19-year-old and her co-stars on MTV's new reality show, *Teen Mom* (airing Tuesday nights). The show

premiered to the highest rated series on the network in more than a year.

The girls on the show aren't strangers to cameras — they were also on MTV's *16 and Pregnant*, which aired last summer. *Teen Mom* revisits the young mothers several months after giving birth.

"I really just wanted to show girls how hard it was to be a teen parent," says

Maci Bookout, 17, of her decision to let her experience be filmed for TV.

Bookout was a popular high-school student with good grades and plans to go to college.

"I wanted girls who might get pregnant to see there are options out there to move forward with your life and still have goals," says Bookout, who plans to marry her baby's father

and would like to have another child.

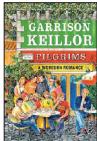
Not all the young women on *Teen Mom* chose to keep their babies. Catelynn Lowell, 17, for example, gave her daughter up for adoption last May.

"It was difficult because that's my daughter. . . . I knew in my heart it was the best (decision) so I just went forward with it," she says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guts and glory behind *Teen Mom*

A journey of uncertainty



Pilgrims

Author: Garrison Keillor
Publisher: Faber & Faber
Price: \$24 (Paperback)

SET IN LAKE Wobegon, the town noted American radio personality Garrison Keillor put on the map in his past works *Lake Wobegon Days* and *Lake Wobegon Summer* 1956, Pil-

BookPicks

grims arrives at a point of uncertainty in Margie and Carl Krebsbach's relationship. In her attempt to conquer their sexual drought, Margie plans a trip to Rome under the pretense of tidying the unkempt grave of a local boy who died there during the city's 1944 liberation. But her travel plans are grounded when a host of colourful locals warm to the idea and want to tag along, foiling her chances for the personal connection she wanted.



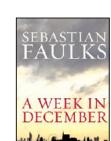
A Good Fall

Author: Ha Jin
Publisher: Pantheon
Price: \$29.95 (Hardcover)

IN HIS LATEST collection of stories, Chinese author Ha Jin enters the immigrant experience, focusing on Chinese characters in America and their feelings of being torn

between two national identities. Children as Enemies follows young people inclined to change their names to appear more "American", to the upset of their grandfather. Immigrants unable to bring their husbands or wives to America are central to In Temporary Love, a story that explores the connection of the divided. Jin's stories are told with precision and passion, presenting stories that hone in on intimate feelings and distress.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada



A Week in December

Author: Sebastian Faulks
Publisher: Hutchinson
Price: \$34.95 (Hardcover)

BRITISH WRITER Sebastian Faulks tries to decongest metropolitan English life in his latest novel, *A Week in December*. The story is made even more critical by its air of "faction," a work masking real characters and events with fiction. The comical book unfolds during one week in December 2007, and follows a party planning by an MP and his wife. The invited guests — who include high finance heads, a journalist and a football player — bring their stories to the pages. They tie together themes like greed and religious fundamentalism, contrasted with the global financial crisis.

In brief

TECHNOLOGY Hackers briefly blocked access to the popular Internet messaging service Twitter overnight, steering traffic to another website where a group reportedly calling itself the "Iranian Cyber Army" claimed responsibility. Users trying to reach Twitter early Friday were redirected to a webpage that CNN reported had a picture of a green flag and a message that said, "This site has been hacked by the Iranian Cyber Army."

FILM Captain EO is moonwalking back to Disneyland. The theme park announced plans Friday to bring back the 3-D sci-fi film starring Michael Jackson next February, over 23 years after the attraction debuted in Anaheim, Calif. The 17-minute film starred the late King of Pop as a singing-and-dancing intergalactic commander.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt



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ED prime time 12/21/09

	C	B	S	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
2 CFRN 239 318	CSI: Miami (HDTV)			Paradise City: Degrassi Goes Hollywood (2009) (DVS)						Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CTV News
3 KHO - 370	News (N)	Be-Millionaire		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	The Sing-Off "The Finale"	The winning group is revealed					Jay Leno Show
4 CBXT - 307	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Just for Laughs (N)			The Hour Holiday Special (N)	CBC News: The National					The Hour
6 KREM - 372	News	Access H.	The Doctors	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami				
7 CKEM 241 347	Murdoch Mysteries		The Jay Leno Show (N)	How I Met	Accidentally	Mercy						Your City
8 CITV 240 339	ET Canada	Entertainment	Holmes in New Orleans	House "Epic Fail"		Lie to Me (HDTV)						News Hour
11 OMNI -	- King	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition	Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men					Metro
13 KXLY 371	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	I Want a Dog for Christmas	Find My Family (N)						Castie
16 KAYU - 373	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Epic Fail"	Lie to Me (HDTV)						News
22 KSPS - 374	PBS NewsHour (N)	'Allo, 'Allo!	Steves Europe	Antiques Roadshow (N)		Great Performances (HDTV)						
24 WTVS - 364	Model Ts to War		The People V. Leo Frank. (DVS)		TBA	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N)					
15 CBCN 502 -	CBC News: The National	The Life of JK Rowling		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National						JK Rowling
21 TWN 505 398	(5) EarthWatch One	EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two								
27 CNN 500 590	Larry King Live (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live						Cooper 360
54 CTVN 501 391	CTV News Tonight	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News		CTV News	CTV News					CTV News
70 BNN 504 508	Squeeze Play	Business News	Berman's Call	Market Call Tonight		Headline	MoneyTalk	Squeeze Play				
20 TNF 400 400	(6:30) NFL Football	New York Giants at Washington Redskins.				SportsCentre						World Poker Tour: Season 7
23 net 408 418	NHL Hockey St. Louie Blues at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsNet Con	SportsNet Connected					Telus Oilers
47 SPEED 417 406	Barrett-Jackson	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy		Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars				Auctions
94 SCORE 410 403	(7:15) WWE Monday Night RAW			Score Now	Score Now	WWE Monday Night RAW						
9 EDACC 267 351	Alberto PrimeTime (Live)	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)	Rita MacNeil's Cape Breton	Gossip Girl (HDTV)								Primetime
14 YTV 552 543	Merry Christmas: Drake & Josh (2008, Comedy)		Scrooged *** (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray.									Family Biz
17 TREE 553 546	Little Bear	Max & Ruby	A Very Fair Christmas	Max & Ruby	Dragon (DVS)	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Go, Diego, Go!				Futurama
42 TOON 555 545	Bah, Humbug! Looney Tunes	Jack Frost *** (1998, Fantasy) Michael Keaton.		Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	King of the Hill	American Dad					King of the Hill
45 FAM 557 541	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz				Ned's School
- TVA 121 714	TV A nouvelles	Madame Doubtfire *** (1993, Comédie) (HDTV) Robin Williams, Sally Field.				Thibert-Noéil						TVA nouvelles
18 CMT 575 583	(6) Snow 2 Brain Freeze	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Live & Up Front: Doc Walker	Snow 2 Brain Freeze (2008, Comedy)							
25 A&E 615 520	Intervention "Rob" (N)	Hoarders (HDTV) (N)	Hoarders (HDTV) (N)	Hoarders "Judi and Gail"		(10:01) Intervention						Intervention
26 MMT 571 581	Fabulous Life Of...	Entourage	Wild 'n Out	Ranked!		Fabulous Life Of...						Entourage
29 FOOD 603 561	Top Chef: Las Vegas	Dinner: Impossible	Iron Chef America			Unwrapped						Chef: Vegas
31 SHOW 617 522	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits	His and Her Christmas (2005, Comedy-Drama)								Bones
32 DISC 520 505	Dirty Jobs "Tofu Maker" (N)	Man vs. Wild "Namibia"	Daily Planet	MythBusters		Man vs. Wild						Brat Camp
33 SLICE 601 562	Instant Beauty Pageant	Plastic Makes	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out						Eve's Christmas (2004, Comedy-Drama)
34 W 602 567	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	Borrowed Hearts (1997, Drama) Roma Downey.									Broken Hearts
35 TLC 521 560	Little Chocolatiers (N)	World Chocolate	Little People	Little People	Little Chocolatiers							Choc. Champ
36 BRAVO 620 523	Yo-Yo Ma: The Making of Songs of Joy & Peace		Law & Order: Kids'			Law & Order: Kids'						Without a Trace
38 SPIKE 628 584	Forrest Gump *** (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.					Real Vice	Real Vice					Real Vice
39 AMC -	(6) A Christmas Carol (1984, Fantasy)		Holiday Inn *** (1942, Musical Comedy) Bing Crosby.									(10:45) Christmas Eve
40 HIST 522 506	Battles BC		The Lost Book of Nostradamus			M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Nostradamus				
41 COM 624 527	Just for Laughs	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park	TBA				
43 SPACE 627 528	Sea Ghost (2004, Horror) Billy Warlock. (DVS)			Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Trek: Voyager				
44 WPCH 294 650	Law & Order: SVU	Getting Played (2005, Romance-Comedy)		(9:45) Getting Played (2005, Romance-Comedy)								
46 OLN 411 457	Survivorman	Ghost Hunters	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman							
48 TROP 619 525	Carlwood	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comback	Family Guy				
50 STAR 621 527	The View (HDTV) (N)	The Dr. Oz Show (HDTV)		TMZ	etalk	Access H.	Extra	Dr. Oz Show				
52 HGTV 600 564	House Poor (N)	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes	House Poor	Income Prop.	For Rent				
65 TLN 700 800	(6) I Love...I	George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight	Raymond	Raymond	Paid Program					
92 APTN 269 350	Metcom	La Voix Mechi	New Canoe	Wings-Canada	Venturing Frth	MTV	Arbor Live					Rez Rides
93 VISION 261 394	Miracle of the Heart (2005, Drama) Neil Patrick Harris.					Tabernacle	Mormon-Choir	Miracle of the Heart (2005, Drama)				
100 MTV 581 566	Teen Mom	Super Sweet	Teen Cribs	MTV Live	MTV News	MTV Cribs	MTV Cribs	Super Sweet				
101 MM 570 580	So You Think You Can Dance	So You Think You Can Dance	MuchOnDemand	House		Selena Gomez	Dance					
102 CPAC 512 396	(6:30) Primate Politics		Tete a Tete	The Public Record		Prime-Politics	Primate Politics					
103 VIVA 526 507	The Closer	Cold Case		Mediums	In Dreams	Judging Amy		Missing				
106 RDI 126 730	Le Téléjournal (SC)	RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal (SC)		24 Heures en 60 minutes		Le Téléjournal				
161 SUPER	Trust Me "Norming"		The Closer "Make Over"	Crash		Trust Me (HDTV)		Trust Me				

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critics' corner

Snow 2 Brain Freeze

Some of the "new Santa" movies of recent years — such as "The Santa Clause" — have been tolerable, but this universe, first seen in 2004's "Snow," pushes the limits of what those of us raised on the traditional Santa lore can swallow. In this sequel, the jolly not-so-old elf gets amnesia three days before Christmas, and it's up to his lovely Mrs. 6 PM on CMT



Eve's Christmas

The "It's a Wonderful Life" story gets a different twist in this holiday drama. A successful but lonely advertising executive wishes she could change some things in her past. And guess what; it's Christmas Eve, a night for wishes coming true. 10 PM on W

The Big Bang Theory

The holidays aren't very merry for Leonard when a handsome colleague begins dating Penny, while Sheldon drives everyone nuts trying to master the nuances of gift-giving etiquette in "The Bath Item Gift Hypothesis." 10:31 PM on CFRN KREM



Tina Knowles filed for divorce from Mathew Knowles in November, a source close to the showbiz family confirms to usmagazine.com recently. The parents to Beyonce and Solange Knowles have been married for 29 years. METRO NEWS SERVICES

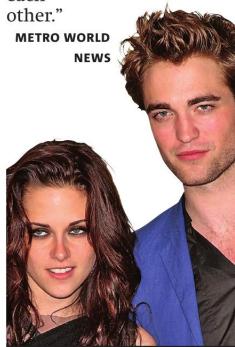
Celebrity Buzz

Pattinson and Stewart spotted in Venice Beach

DINING OUT Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart failed to go unnoticed recently when they headed out to enjoy a nice dinner together in Los Angeles' Venice Beach neighborhood.

"It looked like they were on a nice stroll through the neighborhood," a source tells E! News. "They seemed really just into hanging together. They weren't holding hands, but were really sweet with each other."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jonas brother Kevin gets hitched at swanky estate

ISN'T THAT SWEET? In a setting fit for a Disney prince and his princess, Kevin Jonas married Danielle Deleasa Saturday night at Oheka Castle, a turn-of-the-century French-style chateau, on a sprawling estate in Long Island, people.com reports.

"We're so happy that we're finally married and we were able to share the special moment with family, friends and loved ones," the couple tells People.

Though a blizzard threatened the festivities, the wedding attended by 400 family members and friends, including Demi Lovato, went forward as scheduled.

"The snow only made it look more like a winter wonderland," said Michael Russo, a celebrity event planner of Roses-n-Lollipops, who for Saturday's event created a fairytale forest under heated

white tents, complete with 14-foot trees draped in hydrangeas and crystals made to look like icicles.

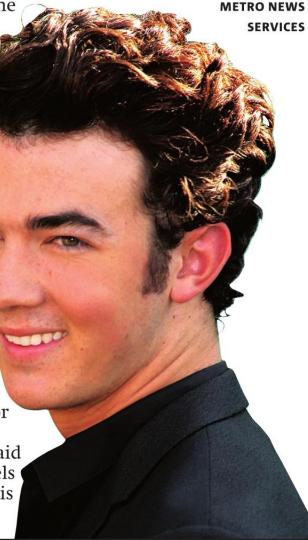
"Danielle looked like a princess," he said. When she walked down the aisle in her strapless tulle and Chantilly lace Vera Wang gown, "Kevin couldn't stop smiling," said Russo.

With his brothers, Joe and Nick serving as his best men, Kevin, 22, and Danielle, 23, recited traditional vows and exchanged Jacob & Co. wedding bands they designed for one another.

"Kevin has said many times he feels like he met his

princess," says Russo. "To see them together you can feel the warmth and the love all around them. They are just perfect for each other."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Michael Lohan wants better pals for Lindsay

BECAUSE HE HAS SET SUCH A STELLAR EXAMPLE Michael Lohan hopes that a higher class of friends is just the thing daughter Lindsay Lohan needs to keep her on the straight and narrow. So Lindsay being spotted last week at the same party as Leonardo DiCaprio is a good thing, he tells Hollyscoop.

"They have been friends for years," Michael says. "Mark Wahlberg, Robert Downey Jr., Leonardo DiCaprio and a few others. I think they have a lot of positive things to offer."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Celebrity tweets

Stan Lee likes to brag, Jordin Sparks is not enjoying winter, Joel McHale gives you detailed updates, and Russell Simmons is aiming higher.



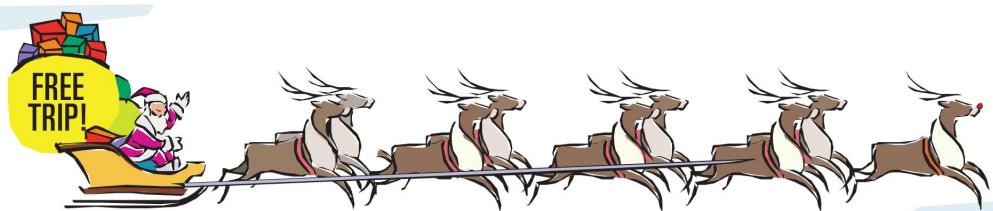
• **@Smilinstan-lee** So far I've taken pix with 3 presidents, Clinton, Reagan and Bush. I often wonder how this country could ever have run without me.

• **@TheRealJordin** I hate the cold. And I have a cold. Ha. A cold in the cold. Great. Soup time!

• **@joelmcchale** There's a woman placing Korean food in front of me right now.

• **@UncleRUSH** Yogi believes the ultimate payoff "heaven" can be realized on earth. This enlightenment is your birthrite.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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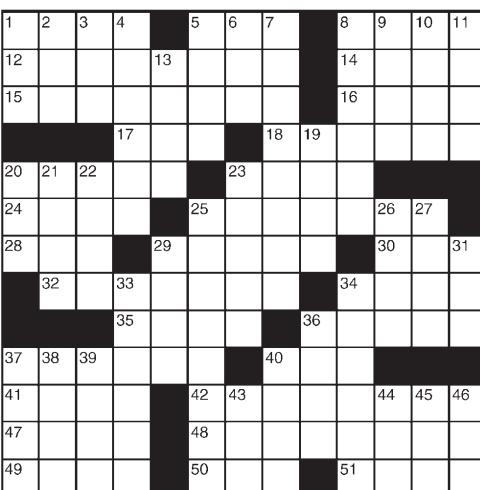


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#P06-6174, Leather

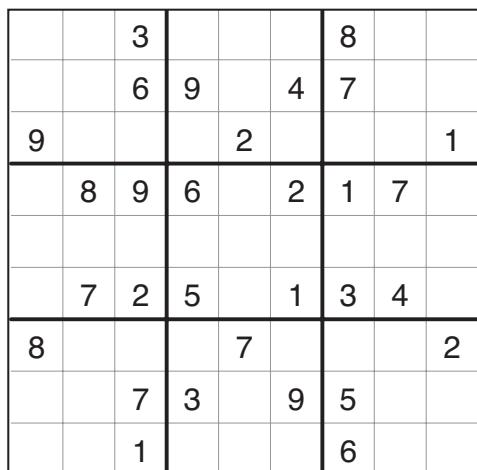
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**Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television**'My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.' **WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.****Sudoku**For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

**ACROSS**

1 Pinza of "South Pacific"
 5 "Give — break!"
 8 Dweeby type
 12 "The View" co-host
 14 Old Italian money
 15 Source of great wealth
 16 Press
 17 — Bon Jovi
 18 Most recent
 20 For a specific purpose
 23 Platter
 24 Nitwit
 25 Tennessee city
 28 Right angle
 29 Funnyman Jerry
 30 Medic, familiarly
 32 Compose in print
 34 Medal earner
 35 Wan
 36 Substantial
 37 Where originally located
 40 Motorists' org.

DOWN

41 Crucifix
 42 Yukon event
 47 African antelope
 48 Report-card sticker, maybe
 49 Break suddenly
 50 Computer file suffix
 51 Danson et al.
 1 Early bird?
 2 Menagerie
 3 Under the weather
 4 Goldfinger ally
 5 Chicken chow
 —
 6 Compass point suffix
 7 "18 or older" provision
 8 Snafu
 9 Ireland
 10 Greek Cupid
 11 Philosopher
 13 Emmanuel
 19 Poisonous snakes

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	B	S	C	L	A	W	R	O	M	E
D	A	Y	O	A	T	H	E	V	I	L
S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	H	E	M	S
D	Y	E	S	A	E	R	I	E		
A	C	R	E	S	M	I	C	A		
B	O	R	S	I	G	H	T	S	E	
L	A	M	C	A	N	O	E	Y	M	
E	X	E	C	T	O	R	N	I	K	
R	O	A	R	S	U	E	S	A	T	
A	V	V	I	S	T	E	P			
M	A	D	E	S	Y	N	O	P	S	I
S	L	E	D	E	S	P	Y			

2	5	4	3	9	1	6	7	8
6	1	8	4	7	5	2	3	9
7	9	3	2	8	6	4	1	5
1	2	6	9	4	3	8	5	7
8	3	5	7	1	2	9	4	6
4	7	9	6	5	8	3	2	1
3	6	7	5	2	9	1	8	4
5	8	2	1	6	4	7	9	3
9	4	1	8	3	7	5	6	2

On the webFor more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca**Horoscopes by Sally Brompton** sallybrompton.comFor Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca**ARIES****MARCH 21-APRIL 20**

You will totally disagree with what you are told today. You can't take seriously something that is so outrageous.

TAURUS**APRIL 21-MAY 21**

According to the planets you are expecting too much of yourself and must adjust your ambitions to a more reasonable level.

LIBRA**SEPT 23-OCT 23**

Is something you thought was as real as it comes an illusion after all? That is the question you will be asking yourself today.

SCORPIO**OCT 24-NOV 22**

Listen to what others have to tell you today but don't think you have to think or do as they say.

GEMINI**MAY 22-JUNE 21**

Don't waste time on petty arguments. You should be channeling your energy in productive directions, not debating issues of no real importance.

SAGITTARIUS**NOV 23-DEC 21**

With Jupiter, your ruler, aspecting Neptune, planet of illusion, today you will find it hard to make up your mind about what you should be doing.

CANCER**JUNE 22-JULY 22**

You will have to make some kind of financial adjustment over the next 24 hours, most likely because you have bitten off more than you can chew.

CAPRICORN**DEC 22-JAN 20**

You will have some wonderful ideas and insights as the new week begins but don't be too eager to put them to the test because this is a time for thinking.

LEO**JULY 23-AUG 23**

If you embellish the truth in any way, shape or form you will almost certainly be found out – and that could be embarrassing later in the week.

AQUARIUS**JAN 21-FEB 18**

Cosmic activity in and around your birth sign means there will be so much going on in your world that you find it hard to get your head around it.

VIRGO**AUG 24-SEPT 22**

Try not to provoke an argument or confrontation today because it is unlikely to go in your favor.

PISCES**FEB 19-MARCH 20**

Try not to take your doubts and fears too seriously – they are no more than negative manifestations of your over-active imagination.

TAKE A BREAK FROM WORKVisit metronews.ca to watch**metrotube** of the day**entertainment 27****Take Five****Metro Recipe of the Day**

slices. Squeeze some drops of lime juice over fish, then lay slices on top of fillets. Dot with butter and season to taste.

4. Put tomatoes, cut side up, alongside fish. Fold up foil to enclose fish and tomatoes and seal edges. 5. Put parcels on baking tray and bake 10 minutes. Open foil and bake until fish is opaque and cooked through. Test with point of knife. Cut each piece of fish in half and transfer to plates with tomatoes. Pour over juices from parcels and serve.

SERVES 4**rd.ca**

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

**This day in history**

1913: Arthur Wynne's "word-cross", the first crossword puzzle, is published in the New York World.
 1937: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the first full-length animated film ever, premieres at the Carthay Circle Theater.
 1958: French presidential election: Charles de Gaulle is elected President of France as his Union des Démocrates pour la République party gains 78.5% of the vote.
 1968: Apollo program: Apollo 8, the first manned mission to the moon, is launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
 1969: The Gay Activists Alliance is formed in New York City.

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